

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182478

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING WITH AFGHAN AMBAS-
SADOR KARIM

REF: KABUL 5314

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS AN INFORMAL REPORT OF
AMBASSADOR KARIM'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT
HIS CREDENTIALS ON JULY 29.

A. THE PRESIDENT WELCOMED AMBASSADOR KARIM TO THE U.S. AND
SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE EXCELLENT STATE OF U.S.-
AFGHAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT AMBASSADOR
KARIM WOULD FEEL FREE TO CALL ON THE SECRETARY ANY TIME HE
FELT IT NECESSARY TO DO SO AND, IF THE SITUATION REQUIRED,
TO CONTACT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF.

THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT LINES
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OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS REMAINED OPEN
TO ENSURE THAT NO UNNECESSARY MISUNDERSTANDING WOULD DEVELOP
AND THAT GOOD RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE.

B. AMBASSADOR KARIM CONVEYED WARM WISHES FROM PRESIDENT
DAOUD FOR THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AND SUCCESS AND THE PROS-

PERITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AFGHANISTAN, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, HAS DEEP ADMIRATION FOR THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION AND FEELS THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MUCH IN COMMON FLOWING FROM THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. AMBASSADOR KARIM COMMENTED THAT AFGHANISTAN IS A SMALL COUNTRY WHICH IS DELICATELY SITUATED FROM THE GEOGRAPHICAL POINT OF VIEW. DESPITE ITS LOCATION, AFGHANISTAN LED BY PRESIDENT DAOUD IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY. PRESIDENT DAOUD, WHO TOOK OFFICE SOME FOUR YEARS AGO AND WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS PRIME MINISTER, IS DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING AFGHANISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND TO FURTHERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. BEING BOTH SMALL AND POOR, AFGHANISTAN IS IN NEED OF FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE NOT ONLY TO PROMOTE ITS DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE. AFGHANISTAN APPRECIATES THE ASSISTANCE WHICH IT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND HOPES THAT THE U.S. WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TO FURTHER REQUESTS IN THE ASSISTANCE FIELD. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

C. THE PRESIDENT THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR CONVEYING THE GOOD WISHES OF PRESIDENT DAOUD FOR WHOM THE PRESIDENT HAS HIGH REGARD AND ADMIRATION. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE COULD MEET DAOUD PERSONALLY SOMETIME IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FUTURE. THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WHICH IS PROVING BENEFICIAL AND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUED COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT A NARCOTICS COMMITTEE, INCLUDING THE U.S., HAD BEEN FORMED IN AFGHANISTAN. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE AND INDEED THE WORLD WELCOMED ALL EFFORTS MADE BY PRESIDENT DAOUD WITH RESPECT TO THE POPPY CULTIVATION PROBLEM.

D. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ASSURED THAT HE WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED IN AFGHANISTAN.

E. THE PRESIDENT ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY HIS WARMEST REGARDS TO PRESIDENT DAOUD.

2. FYI: NO SPECIFIC U.S. PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN WERE DISCUSSED, OUTSIDE MENTION OF THE NEW JOINT COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS. CHRISTOPHER

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